

REMARKS

I. **Claim Status**

Claims 28-30 have been canceled in this amendment without prejudice to further prosecution in one or more related divisional or continuation applications. Therefore, after entry of the present amendment, claims 27 and 31-37 are pending.

II. **Rejections**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of rejections that were made in the Office Action dated July 16, 2002. The following remarks address the objection and rejections made in the final Office Action dated January 30, 2003.

A. **35 U.S.C. § 132**

Applicants' November 5, 2002 Amendment was objected to because it allegedly introduced new matter into the disclosure of the invention. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have canceled the term "maximal" from the paragraph at page 35, line 15 to page 36, line 9. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

B. **35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph**

Claims 27-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter that allegedly was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one of skill in the relevant art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Specifically, it is asserted that introduction of the term "maximal" into claims 29 and 30, which depend from claim 27, is not supported by the specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To expedite prosecution, claims 29-30 have been canceled in this amendment, thus rendering this rejection moot. The remaining pending claims, i.e., claims 27 and 31-37, which do not contain the term "maximal," are all supported by the specification. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. Supplemental IDS

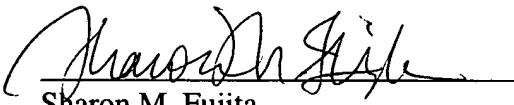
A supplemental IDS is submitted herewith citing the Mann publication referenced in the Declaration of Genhai Zhu, which was filed with Applicants' November 5, 2002 Amendment and Response.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiencies in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-0990.

Respectfully submitted,

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